

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5, 12, 13, 30 and 33 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 12, 13 and 30 are amended. No new matter is added. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

I. 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph, Rejection

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 5, 12, 13, 30 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claims 1 and 30 are amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. Claims 2, 5, 12, 13 and 33 depend on claims 1 and 30. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

II. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 5, 12, 13, 30 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,972,773 to Matsui et al. (Matsui). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, "the first group of sub-fields being adjacent to the second group of sub-fields, each of the first group of sub-fields having a same first sub-field period, each of the second group of sub-fields having a same second sub-field period which is substantially equal to a sum of first sub-field periods of the first group of sub-fields." Claim 1 further recites "selecting, according to the grayscale data, sub-fields that are adjacent to each other in a direction from a boundary between the first group of sub-fields and the second group of sub-fields toward a sub-field of the first group of sub-fields or a sub-field of the second group of sub-fields at a position most remote from the boundary." Independent claim 30 recites similar features. Support for the amendment can be found in the specification at, for example, Fig. 10.

In the specification, SF1-SF4 included in "a first group of sub-fields" have "first sub-field periods," which are the same length as each other. SF5-SF7 included in "a second group

of sub-fields" also has "second sub-field periods," which are the same length as each other. The length of "a second sub-field period" is substantially the same as the total length of SF1-SF4 (that is, the length of "a first group of sub-fields"). Furthermore, "a first group of sub-fields" and "a second group of sub-fields" are adjacent to each other.

Matsui does not disclose or suggest the same length, adjacent groups, or selecting adjacent sub-fields features as recited in claims 1 and 30.

The Office Action asserts that Fig. 16B, B0-B3 of Matsui discloses "a plurality of first sub-field periods." However, as amended, claims 1 and 30 recite "a first sub-field periods" have the same length. On the contrary, Fig. 16B; B0-B3 of Matsui disclose sub-fields whose lengths are different, i.e., 65, 180, 260, and 520 μ sec, respectively. Thus, Matsui does not disclose the "same length" features of claims 1 and 30.

Additionally, in Matsui, as shown in fig. 16C, divided sub-fields are scattered and arranged. For example, B5-1 and B5-2 are not adjacent to each other. Thus, Masui does not disclose the "adjacent" feature recited in claims 1 and 30.

Furthermore, in case of corresponding to gradation data in which a period (2.1 msec) of B5 is turned on, and other periods are turned off, B5-1 and B5-2 are selected as an ON period. Because B5-1 and B5-2 are scattered, adjacent sub-fields are not selected. Thus, Matsui does not disclose the "selecting adjacent sub-fields" feature recited in claims 1 and 30.

In view of the above, Matsui fails to disclose each and every feature of independent claims 1 and 30. Thus, independent claims 1 and 30, and their dependent claims, are patentable over Masui. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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